

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A lift station for lifting liquid from an open channel flow of liquid, said lift station comprising:

a housing having an inlet opening arranged to receive said open channel flow of liquid onto a bottom wall of said housing so that open channel flow continues into said housing;

a bladed wheel mounted within said housing for rotation about an axis located above said inlet opening, and a drive motor rotating said bladed wheel therein by drive components coupling said drive motor to said blade wheel;

said bladed wheel having a plurality of outwardly extending blades attached to a hub structure, said blades generally conforming to the cross sectional shape of an interior space in said housing receiving said open channel liquid flow and rotated in the same direction of the direction of said flow, said blades each having an outer edge passing over said bottom wall during rotation of said bladed wheel and sweeping said open channel liquid flow entering said inlet opening in said same direction as said direction of said open channel flow;

said housing interior space defined by a rear wall surface curving upwardly from said inlet opening along the path along which said outer edge of each of said blades move so as to enable liquid to be swept therealong and upwardly by rotation of said bladed wheel;

said upwardly curving surface extending to a rearwardly and upwardly extending exit chute having a weir edge defined at an upper region thereof, liquid slung over said weir edge descending into a collection space disposed below and past said weir edge; said bladed wheel rotated by said drive motor to achieve sufficient blade velocity to sweep liquid upwardly and to

slung said liquid up said exit chute and over said weir edge, said liquid thereafter descending into said collection space;

the improvement comprising an entryway inclined downwardly sufficiently steeply to said housing bottom wall inlet opening in the direction of movement of said blades to prevent a substantial retardation of said open channel flow upon encountering said blades.

2. (Original) The lift station according to claim 1 wherein said housing bottom wall descends approximately three inches to a point where said flow encounters said rotating wheel blades.

3. (Original) The lift station according to claim 1 wherein said housing further includes an upwardly inclined guide partition extending from said weir edge back into said housing to guide said liquid slung up by said wheel blades over said weir edge.

4. (Original) The lift station according to claim 1 wherein said hub structure comprises a drum, said blades attached to the perimeter thereof extending in a tangential direction; an axle shaft fixed to and extending within said drum; a respective bearing receiving one end of said axle shaft mounted to the inside of a respective side wall defining said housing to support said blade wheel for rotation in said housing interior space.

5. (Original) The lift station according to claim 4 wherein said respective bearing comprises a roller bearing filled with a solid lubricant.

6. (Original) The lift station according to claim 1 further including a reverse rotation device drivingly associated with said bladed wheel preventing rotation thereof in a reverse direction from said direction of open channel liquid flow into said housing.

7. (Original) The lift station according to claim 6 wherein said reverse rotation device comprises a one way sprag clutch driven by a drive shaft driven by said drive motor and a reaction arm connected to fixed structure and absorbing a reaction of said sprag clutch upon attempted reverse rotation of said bladed wheel.

8. (Original) The lift station according to claim 1 wherein each blade is constructed of two thin metal sheets clamped together, one blade sheet extending out radially a greater distance than the other blade sheet.

9. (Withdrawn) A method of raising the level of liquid in an open channel flow of liquid flowing down an inclined bottom collection trough extending beneath a machine tool installation to collect draining cutting fluid and entrained chips to form an open channel liquid flow stream within said collection trough, comprising the steps of:

guiding said open channel liquid stream in said collection trough into a housing having a bottom surface configured to receive said flowing liquid stream;

successively sweeping each of a plurality of blades into said flowing liquid stream to sweep liquid and chips along said housing bottom surface and up an upwardly curving wall

surface into an exit chute extending back in a reverse direction from said flowing liquid stream, and over a weir edge located in said exit chute;

causing said open channel flow stream to plunge down into the region whereat blades sweep into said flow stream through a vertical drop sufficient to prevent a substantial disturbance in said open channel flow upstream from said region whereat said blades sweep into said flow.

10. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 9 wherein said vertical drop comprises a distance approximately three inches to cause a sufficient increase in flow to prevent said upstream disturbance.

11. (Original) A lift station for lifting liquid from an open channel flow of liquid, said lift station comprising:

a housing having an inlet opening arranged to receive said open channel flow of liquid onto a bottom wall of said housing so that open channel flow continues into said housing:

a bladed wheel mounted within said housing for rotation about an axis located above said inlet opening, and a drive motor rotating said bladed wheel therein by drive components coupling said drive motor to said blade wheel;

said bladed wheel having a plurality of outwardly extending blades attached to a hub structure, said blades generally conforming to the cross sectional shape of an interior space in said housing receiving said open channel liquid flow and rotated in the same direction of the direction of said flow, said blades each having an outer edge passing over said bottom wall during

rotation of said bladed wheel and sweeping said open channel liquid flow entering said inlet opening in said same direction as said direction of said open channel flow;

said housing interior space defined by a rear wall surface curving upwardly from said inlet opening along the path along which said outer edge of each of said blades move so as to enable liquid to be swept therealong and upwardly by rotation of said bladed wheel;

said upwardly curving surface extending to a rearwardly and upwardly extending exit chute having a weir edge defined at an upper region thereof, liquid slung over said weir edge descending into a collection space disposed below and past said weir edge; said bladed wheel rotated by said drive motor to achieve sufficient blade velocity to sweep liquid upwardly and to sling said liquid up said exit chute and over said weir edge, said liquid thereafter descending into said collection space;

the improvement comprising a reverse rotation device drivingly associated with said bladed wheel preventing rotation thereof in a reverse direction from said direction of open channel liquid flow into said housing.

12. (Original) A lift station for lifting liquid from an open channel flow of liquid, said lift station comprising:

a housing having an inlet opening arranged to receive said open channel flow of liquid onto a bottom wall of said housing so that open channel flow continues into said housing;

a bladed wheel mounted within said housing for rotation about an axis located above said inlet opening, and a drive motor rotating said bladed wheel therein by drive components coupling said drive motor to said blade wheel;

said bladed wheel having a plurality of outwardly extending blades attached to a hub structure, said blades generally conforming to the cross sectional shape of an interior space in said housing receiving said open channel liquid flow and rotated in the same direction of the direction of said flow, said blades each having an outer edge passing over said bottom wall during rotation of said bladed wheel and sweeping said open channel liquid flow entering said inlet opening in said same direction as said direction of said open channel flow;

said housing interior space defined by a rear wall surface curving upwardly from said inlet opening along the path along which said outer edge of each of said blades move so as to enable liquid to be swept therealong and upwardly by rotation of said bladed wheel;

said upwardly curving surface extending to a rearwardly and upwardly extending exit chute having a weir edge defined at an upper region thereof, liquid slung over said weir edge descending into a collection space disposed below and past said weir edge; said bladed wheel rotated by said drive motor to achieve sufficient blade velocity to sweep liquid upwardly and to sling said liquid up said exit chute and over said weir edge, said liquid thereafter descending into said collection space;

the improvement comprising a housing tray affixed to a side wall of said housing said drive motor mounted thereon with a drive component coupling said bladed wheel thereto to cause said rotation of said wheel.

13. (Currently Amended) The lift station method according to claim 12 wherein said motor is mounted vertically in said housing tray.

14. (Currently Amended) The lift station method according to claim 12 wherein said drive components include a drive shaft penetrates said side wall of said housing.

15. (Currently Amended) The lift station method according to claim 14 wherein said housing tray has a bottom wall sloping toward said housing side wall and a drain hole in said side wall allowing drawback of any liquid leaking into said housing tray.